

TO THE REAL BURGESSES OF PONTEFRACT.

I Presume little Apology will be Necessary for Addressing you at this Time—The Time and the Occasion seem to demand it—It is notorious that you have been egregiously traduced, and your Conduct at this Time totally misrepresented, as factious and turbulent by your opposers—In Order that you may be well acquainted with your present Situation, that you may be thoroughly satisfied with your present spirited Conduct, it may be useful to recollect, it may be proper to take a View of the Mode of former Elections, the Treatment you have been used to receive, and your own Behaviour on those Occasions for more than Thirty Years past. Your late very worthy and right Hon'ble Representative (to whose Disadvantage not the least Whisper is heard amongst you) his Father, his Family, and the Gentlemen connected with them, have at every Election for the Space of Years abovementioned, constantly had the Condescension, the Politeness to request personally the Votes of many of you, and of the rest generally, in their Support; and have uniformly added the Invitation to the usual Entertainments. You on your Parts, and in return for so much Civility have, as uniformly, cheerfully complied with the Request, and accepted the Invitation, as pleased with the Opportunity of shewing your Approbation and Gratitude. So far to all Appearance Matters went well, and to the Satisfaction of the Electors and Elected. But in the mean Time (latet Anquis in Herbis) there have not been wanting a few Persons, who have assumed to themselves the Praise due to you, the Merit of your Steadiness and Moderation they have surreptitiously arrogated to themselves. They have not neglected to insinuate, where they thought it might gain Credit, (with what Views is best known to themselves) that the Uniform, constant Acquiescence on your Part was the effect of their Address and Management, not the Fruit of your honest and sincere Attachment to the Persons and Interest of your Representatives. Had they stopped even here, the usual Harmony might still have subsisted. But some Months ago, upon a change of Property that need not be mentioned, in Order the more effectually to ingratiate themselves with the new Proprietor, one Step further was thought necessary, which was, to insinuate that at the approaching Election your Voices would be unnecessary, your Approbation might be unsolicited, your Privileges as Electors totally disregarded. The Agents of Mr W---h, very soon thought proper to throw off all disguise, very early hung out the Flag of Defiance. They had the Front contemptuously to proclaim in several Companies publick and private, the Affront ready to be put upon you. The total Rejection of your Voices, in return for your long Steadiness and Acquiescence. An Insult, which none but an Ass could not discover, none but a Sheep could tamely submit to. Let none of you after such an Indignity offered you, repent of that honest Indignation each of you must experience in his own Breast. The World will see who have been the Aggressors. Be well assured your Principles are sound and your present Conduct irreproachable. Go on, be assured that your firmness in the Cause of Liberty will afford you the highest Satisfaction, and secure you the Esteem of all Men possessed of the least Spark of Discernment, the least Tincture of Virtue and Integrity. It were much to be wished, that those of your Number, who have fallen off, may hereafter enjoy the same Self-approbation, and stand so fair in the Eye of the sensible, the honest Part of Mankind; Give me leave to add, that in the present Contest you hazard nothing, if the Justice of Parliament should upon an Appeal, place your Privileges upon their proper, their lawful Basis; you ensure the Continuance of them to yourselves and your Posterity, if on the contrary, it happens through some Fatality, or any Particular Influence your Plea should be set aside, you will then only remain in your present insignificant Situation. The Struggle for Liberty, the Assertion of your Privileges, will be deemed noble, though not attended with the desired Success, and the Uprightness of your Intentions will bear you up under the Disappointment.

A By-Stander.

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